

Message Text

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43/54

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 PC-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11 INRE-00 RSR-01

/140 W

----- 076039

O R 101410Z JUL 73 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2714

INFO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (KAMPALA ADDEE AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC PFOR UG

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF PCV'S IN UGANDA

REF: STATE 133471

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS (EAA) OKOT
AND HIS RESERVATIONS MANAGER, E.G. LUBEGA, PROVIDED EMBASSY
WITH FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF PCV INCIDENT AT ENTEBBE:

2. AT EAA'S REQUEST, TWA ARRANGED CONTRACT BETWEEN EAA
AND PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON, SIGNED JUNE 27TH, TO CARRY
120 PCV'S FROM GATWICK AIRPORT LONDON TO BUJUMBURA
ALLOWING FOR NECESSARY TECHNICAL STOPOVER ENROUTE. TWA
WAS TO CARRY PCV'S FROM US TO LONDON. ON JULY 4, EAST
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AFRICAN AIRWAYS, IN CONSULTATION WITH TWA NAIROBI,

DECIDED THAT SINCE THERE WAS NO JET FUEL AVAILABLE FOR VC-10 AT BUJUMBURA, A TECHNICAL LANDING WOULD BE NECESSARY AT AN INTERMEDIATE POINT BETWEEN LONDON AND BUJUMBURA. KHJRTOUM WAS CONSIDERED BUT DISCARDED ON ASSUMPTION THAT PCV'S MIGHT LACK TRANSIT VISAS FOR SUDAN AND THIS MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS. NAIROBI WAS ALSO CONSIDERED BUT DISCARDED BECAUSE STOP HERE WOULD INVOLVE UNNECESSARY AMOUNT OF XTRA FLYING TIME AND COSTS. UGANDA, PARTNER STATE IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND ALONG MORE DIRECT LINE LONDON-BUJUMBURA, WAS DECIDED ON BY EAA.

3. ON JULY 5 LUGEGA CALLED EAA ENTEBBE AIRPORT MANAGER LUBWAMA AND ASKED HIM TO ADVISE PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT THAT SPECIAL CHARTER FLIGHT CARRYING PCV'S FOR BUJUMBURA WOULD BE ARRIVING AT ENTEBBE MORNING OF JULY 7TH AND TO INQUIRE WHETHER GOU PERCEIVED ANY OBJECTIONS TO TECHNICAL STOP FOR REFUELING AND SERVICE. ON SAME DAY LUBWAMA TELEPHONED PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER (NAME AT PRESENT NOH KNOWN), APPRISED HIM OF ABOVE AND ASKED FOR CLEARANCE. IMMIGRATION OFFICER SAID LANDING WOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEMS PROVIDED PASSENGERS DID NOT LEAVE AIRCRAFT. THIS INFORMATION RELAYED BACK TO EAA HEADQUARTERSR IN NAIROBI.

4. AT 2108 HOURS GMT JULY 6 VC-10 CAPTAIN FILED FLIGHT PLAN FROM GATWICK, RECEIVED BY AREA CONTROL CENTER NAIROBI AND ENTEBBE SIMULTANEOUSLY AT 0533 HOURS GMT (0833 HOURS LOCAL TIME) JULY 7. EAA POINTS OUT IS IS GENERAL PRACTICE FOR ITS CAPTAINS TO FILE FLIGHT PLANS AT LEAST ONE HOUR BEFORE EXPECTED ARRIVAL AT EAST AFRICAN AIRPORTS. IN THIS CASE ILEAD TIME WAS ABOUT 2-1/2 HOURS.

5. ENTEBBE TOWER CONTACTED AIRCRAFT SHORT TIME BEFORE 0700 HOURS GMT (1000 LOCAL TIME) AND CLEARED AIRCRAFT FOR LANDING. AIRCRAFT LANDED AT ABOUT 0730 GML (1030 LOCAL), WAS REFUELZD AND SERVICED AND TOOK OFF ABOUT 0800 HOURS GMT (1100 HOURS LOCAL). EAA OFFICIALS NAIROBI UNSURE OF SEQUENCE AND TIMING OF SUBSEQUENT IMMEDIATE EVENTS. ALL THEY KNOW NOW IS THAT PLANE CAPTAIN WAS ORDERED BY CONTROL TOWER AFTER ABOUT HALF HOUR OF FLIGHT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RETURN. CONTROL TOWER WAS ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF A UGANDAN MILITARY AUTHORITY. -- NOT IMMIGRATION OR DIRECTORATE CIVIL AVIATION. PLANE PANDED AT ENTEBBE AT 0910 GMT (1210 LOCAL).

6. WHEN GOU OFFICIALS EXAMINED GUGGAGE AND DOCUMENTS OF PASSENGERS, ACCORDING TO EAA, THEY FOUND DOCUMENTS INDICATING THAT PCV'S WERE DESTINED FOR BUKAVU. THIS

WAS FIRST INDICATION EAA RECEIVED THAT BUJUMBURA WAS NOT PASSENGERS' ULTIMATE DESTINATION. EAS COULD FIND NO SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION TO GIVE UGANDANS ABOUT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN BUJUMBURA AS CHARTER DESTINATION AND BUKAVU AS PASSENGER DESTINATION. (NOT EVEN TWA REP NAIROBI WAS THEN AWARE THAT PCV'S WOULD TRANSFER FROM BUJUMBURA TO AIR ZAIRE FLIGHT FOR BUKAVU.)

7. ABOVE IS EAA'S UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION. IN CONFIDENCE, OKOT, WHO ASKED THAT HE NOT BE IDENTIFIED BY NAME IN ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS BUT SIMPLY AS EAA OFFICIAL, SAID IN PIQUE THE ONLY THING EAA FAILED TO DO IN GETTING ADVANCE CLEARANCE WAS TO NOTIFY GENERAL AMIN PERSONALLY ABOUT CHARTER PCV FLIGHT. LINDSTROM

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